Houston, and was probably not sufficently composed to take the shot. The bleached-out effect was caused by over-exposure and the blur almost certainly because he did not "pan" his camera fast enough to keep up with the car. However, Willis' left hand is seen to jerk downwards in the Zapruder film (Z137-Z140) and this could signify a startle-reaction. I feel that if this reaction was to a shot, it could have not hit. By the time Willis had heard a shot it would have struck. JFK is seen brushing back his hair in Willis 4 and then he rests his arm on the car door. At this point the first splice occurs, as Willis steps back onto the kerb. Kennedy then looks at the crowd to his right and begins to wave. As the car approaches the freeway sign then he begins to react to a shot. The movement of Zapruder's camera tends to hide the reaction, but examination of Z193 and Z206 shows Kennedy waving to the crowds in Z193 and facing his right. In Z206 he is facing straight ahead, his hand has lowered, and he is much further foward in his seat. Also the position of the Secret Service Agent on the front right running-board of the follow-up car and the Motorcycle Officer to the left rear of the limousine have altered. In Z193 they are looking casually ahead, but in Z206 they are looking in the general direction of Zapruder - towards the Grassy Knoll area!

I believe the first shot that hit was fired in the Z195-Z200 sequence, from the right front, and hit Kennedy in the throat.

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The Listener

Letters to the Editor

6 April 1978

Kennedy cover-up

SIR: Many flutterings along Paranoid Lane have been started by my letter on assassination conspiracies (16 March). I have been immersed —well, sprinkled—with anonymous letters, including the predictable Baconian one (conspiracy correspondents will stop at nothing, except signing their names), as well as the letters in THE LISTENER. Of the latter, I do not think the constant reader of the *Dawlish Gazette* need detain us, nor the chap who has uncovered twin Oswalds, apparently substituted as required. (I may have got that wrong; I was not paying much attention.) And I accept the correction from the choleric Essexian that Oswald's fingerprints were not 'all over' the assassination gun; merely on the parts used to fire it.

If you wish, I will predict the exact future course of this correspondence. I will state (correctly) that Oswald found his job weeks before the idea even arose to make the speech to which the president was proceeding when Oswald shot him. Had Kennedy not decided to make the speech at the place chosen, he would not have been driving beneath the window of Oswald's place of employment. Someone will respond (rightly) that this fact does not preclude a late hiring of the well-known kook-about-town to do the job. I will reply that the best investigative brains, including my own, have found no evidence of this. The response will come that this is because of a gigantic 'cover up'—which is where we all came in.

JIM BECKER

London SW1

27 April 1978

SIR: More bluster and misinformation from Mr Becker (Letters, 6 April). Oswald's fingerprints were *not* found on 'the parts used for firing' his Carcano rifle. The only identifiable print found on the rifle was Oswald's right palm print and, in the words of the Warren Report, this 'demonstrates that he handled the rifle *when it was disassembled*. A palmprint *could not* be placed on this portion of the rifle when assembled. . . .' (my italics) The print itself was of somewhat dubious provenance, but we will let that one pass.

Becker then reverts to his theme that conspirators could not knowingly have 'placed' Oswald on the parade route as early as mid-October. True, the route was not officially confirmed until a day or two before the assassination, but, and again I quote the Warren Report, 'the traditional parade route in Dallas was along Main Street.' Even without the detour on to Elm, necessary to reach the Trade Mart, the motorcade would have been within shooting distance (or patsy distance) of the Book Depository for the full length of Dealey Plaza.

Kennedy's impending visit was known about for nearly six months. On 5 June, it was agreed that J.F.K. should visit Dallas in late November; from 13 September onwards, the Dallas press began to write about the visit in terms which suggested J.F.K. would make a public appearance (presidential-aide O'Donnell is quoted as saying: 'We had a motorcade wherever we went'). On 4 October, Governor Connally flew to Washington to discuss the itinerary, and it was agreed that there should be a motorcade through downtown Dallas. Oswald obtained his job on 14 October, and started work on the 16th. (Becker may be interested to know that, around this time, Oswald also applied for a job at Dallas airport where, of course, the presidential jet landed.)

All this information about the planning of the visit is to be found in chapter two of the Warren Report. For a man who claims to revere that document, Becker shows a singular ignorance of its contents.

Becker's arguments take no account of the fact that conspiracies do go wrong. Earlier in November, Miami police uncovered a 'carbon copy' scenario—high buildings, telescopic rifles, and a patsy—and when J.F.K. visited that city on 18 November (four days before Dallas), a planned motorcade was scrapped. The Miami police department revealed all this in a press conference in 1967, when a tape-recording of a conversation between a police informer and a right-wing activist was played.

BRIAN BURDEN

Braintree, Essex

4 May 1978

SIR: The 'conspiracy' theories woven beautifully around the murder of President Kennedy by Anthony Summers (THE LISTENER, 9 March), who co-authored *File on the Tsar*, and Michael Eddowes, who wrote *The Oswald File*, are as misconceived as they are contradictory. The former concocts his case from selected 'testimonies', without attempting to establish their credentials, accuracy, and disinterestedness. Many 'witnesses' have subsequently emerged with tales to tell, without sufficient corroboration and documentary, photographic or ballistic data. Why believe 'Dr Peters' or Sylvia Odio rather than (say) Jim Garrison, the attorney who claimed to come close to tracing the actual conspirators, or Hugh McDonald, the policeman who claims personally to have done so, and has stated his willingness to name names under oath?

Some *Panorama* viewers seriously thought the programme proved that the CIA and the Mafia chieftains together planned to murder their own president, but it seems *prima facie* that the motivation would be no weaker in Havana or Moscow.

However, the 'evidence' provided by Mr Eddowes for a Russian marksman look-alike pretending to be American ex-marine Oswald is scarcely 'hard'. It consists of the fact that various measurements of Oswald's height, at different times in his life, show discrepancies up to two inches, and the failure of the autopsy to note his mastoid operation scar (and presumably the failure of the KGB to fake one)! The rest of the story, covering his so-called intelligence contacts and his psychotic motivations, are adequately explained by Priscilla McMillan in her recent *Marina and Lee* (reviewed by Clancy Sigal, THE LISTENER, 20 April.)

Even so, as it is clear that the Warren Commission failed to report the whole truth, let the debate continue in your columns.

SVEN WIEVER

Belmont, Massachusetts

Edited & published by: Harry Irwin. 32 Ravensdene Crescent. Ravenhill. Belfast BT6 ODB.

JFK Assassination FORUM

Number 27
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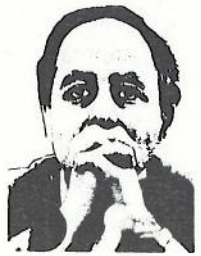
ASSASSINATION COMMITTEE
SURRENDERS TO INTELLIGENCE FORCES

by Ted Gandolfo

"The Chief Counsel of the House Select Committee on Assassinations, G.Robert Blakey, is a 'legal hit man for organized crime' and he has permitted the Committee to be'captured by the FBI and CIA'."

I made that statement recently after it had become known that the Committee had abused a key witness in the Kennedy assassination inquiry so severely, that the witness, an elderly man, "had broken down and was reduced to tears in the Committee's hearing room."

The reason that the Committee questions witnesses behind closed doors, I feel, is because the American people would not stand for their abusive questioning in public. Witnesses have been denied counsel of their choice by the Committee and have been denied an opportunity to testify in public. The Select Committee has combined the worst of two eras. Unlike the Warren Commission which permitted witnesses to testify in public if they insisted on that right, the Select Committee adheres to its policy of secrecy. Unlike Joe McCarthy in the 1950s, it does not permit witnesses to be represented by their counsels. I now understand how Dr Frankenstein felt when he looked up one day and saw the monster begin a rampage.



Robert Blakey

The key figure in the surrender of the Select Committee to the intelligence interests is Robert Blakey, its present Chief Counsel. In charging that Blakey had "odd and recent connections" with organized crime characters, I said that on February 4,1976, Robert Blakey associated himself with Moe Dalitz, one of the early activists with organized crime in America. On that date for a substantial sum of money, he sold his expertise to Dalitz as an 'expert' in the area of organized crime. Blakey refuses to disclose how much money he was paid, leaving only that question in doubt. He refers all questions regarding his services to Dalitz to his attorney, Louis Nizer. Nizer is also the attorney for Moe Dalitz. Nizer wrote in his preface to an edition of the Warren Report that the issue of the JFK assassination was now closed and that only "neurotics" clinging to "pride or a more sordid interest" would refuse to accept the Report findings. Now, Blakey, his client, is ostensibly, investigating the Warren Commission Report!

Blakey was recommended for his position by Committee member, Congressman Christopher Dodd, who had been a law partner with indicted former FBI Director, L.Patrick Gray. Many of the most frightening and recurring questions presented by the JFK and Martin Luther King assassinations are those dealing with the roles of the intelligence agencies. The Church Committee has revealed their criminal excesses and their close cooperation with organized crime. When the original Chief Counsel, Richard A.Sprague, recently guested on my TV show, he told me that he

refused to yield to the intelligence services demand that he and his staff sign "non-disclosure agreements" as these would have given the FBI and CIA the authority to decide what the Committee could disclose. Blakey quickly entered into these agreements and then required Committee personnel to sign agreements which prohibited each of them, including himself, from releasing or commenting upon ANY information relating to "substance or procedure" that was learned through Committee contact.

The January 25,1978 Committee Report states, "All staff members on the Committee have received or are in the process of receiving "top secret" security clearance. The FBI, as an accomodation to the Committee, conducts the background investigations for these security clearances. The CIA then reviews the background investigations done by the FBI. After consultation with the FBI and CIA, the full Committee makes the determination regarding an individual's security clearance."

Thus, those very police agencies which have participated in a cover-up of the facts in these assassinations are now charged with passing on the eligibility of those who would judge their conduct. Blakey said to one charter staff member, of the several he recently fired: "The CIA would be more comfortable if you were gone." The CIA has not explained how this activity does not violate its charter prohibition against domestic activities.

The Rules of the Committee, formulated with the assistance of Congressman Don Edwards of the Constitutional Civil Liberties Committee, have been flagrantly violated under the leadership of Chairman Louis Stokes and Counsel Blakey. Subpeonaed witness, Robert McKeown, was not allowed to have his attorney present, was abused, insulted, and threatened, was not allowed a recording or transcript of his testimony, and was not permitted a public hearing. Witness Jerry Ray and James Earl Ray have been told that they may not have an attorney of their choice. Their sister has been told that although she cannot afford an attorney, she will not be provided with counsel.

The House Select Committee on Assassinations must be freed from the stranglehold of the intelligence agencies; it must deal with the conflict of interest presented by Counsel Blakey's ties with organized crime and Louis Nizer, defender of the Warren Report, and with its own violation of the Rules, before it can pursue THE TRUTH about the assassinations of John F.Kennedy and Martin Luther King.

(Ted Gandolfo, who is becoming a regular contributor to our columns, is the Chairman of the Assassination Information Committee. 1214 First Avenue. New York. NY 10021. He also hosts his own TV show, "Assassination U.S.A.")

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THE SHOTS THROUGH GOVERNOR CONNALLY

by Chris Longbottom

Non-medically orientated researchers may wonder how Governor Connally (JBC) held on to his Stetson hat after he was shot through the wrist.

From the Parkland Hospital medical reports it is clear that the Bullet which traversed the wrist passed extremely close by the Median Nerve. This nerve supplies most of the Flexor Muscles of the forearm and the three Thenar Muscles and two Lumbricals in the hand. Stimulation of this nerve has the effect of flexing the thumb and opposing it with the first and second fingers across the palm; and also has the effect of flexing the forearm. In simple terms, this involves flexion of the forearm such that it moves up and back towards the shoulder or chest; and at the same time involves opposition of the thumb and first two fingers - a grasping or gripping action between the thumb and first two fingers.

These movements are precisely those of JBC's right arm and hand through Zapruder frames 224 to 228. In the space of 4 frames (0.22 seconds) the hand gripping the hat moves up from his lap to just in front of his chin.

Comparison of Z223 and Z224 shows that the top of the hat, visible through the glass frame at the side of the limousine, moves fowards and/or downwards between these frames. This rapid movement can be explained by the transfer of momentum - forwards and downwards - from the bullet through the wrist (assuming the hand was holding the hat). After Z224 the arm and hand move rapidly upwards and backwards, as noted above. Thus, with the bullet impact occuring at Z223/4, the arm and hand flexion started only one frame (0.056 seconds) after bullet impact. This rapid onset is too fast for a reflex arc to occur but is well within the time for direct stimulation of the distal part of the nerve to instigate the muscle contractions.

Again, when Z223 and Z224 are compared, they show that JBC's right shoulder moved forwards and downwards from Z223 and the left shoulder moved slightly upwards and backwards. These movements continue through to Z228, by which time JBC's body is facing somewhat left of forwards. Comparison of Z223 and Z228 (0.27 seconds apart) shows a considerable leftward rotation of his body with depression of the right shoulder and elevation of the left shoulder. These extremely rapid movements are explicable in terms of the transfer of momentum - downwards and forwards - from a bullet through the right side of JBC's chest at Z223/4.

Thus, Governor Connally was hit at Z223/4.

(Chris Longbottom of Dundee, Scotland, has devoted much time and effort to researching the wounds to JFK and JBC. He is currently putting the finishing touches to his own manuscript related to this aspect of the assassination.)

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THE FIRST SHOT AND WILLIS 5

by Colin Cowie

Being a professional photographer, I was asked to examine Slide No. 5 from the series taken in Dealey Plaza by Phil Willis to see if any information could be gleaned from the reflection of the Texas School Book Depository on the boot of the Secret Service follow-up car.

Naturally, the curvature of the surface distorted the image, but it was possible to see that the oak tree not only obscured the sixth-floor "Oswald window" but also part of the one above it. If a sniper on the seventh floor could not have hit the follow-up car it seems logical that a gunman on the sixth floor could not have hit the Presidential limousine either!

It was put to me that Willis No.4 and NOT No.5 was taken as a reflex-action to the sound of a shot - due to its blurred appearance. It should be remembered, however, that Willis had just dashed across from his 1,2 and 3 vantage point at the intersection between Main and